

Abdul

April 29, 1927

Laura
Mrs. Roberts Campbell
1125 W. Mistletoe Ave.
San Antonio, Texas

Dear Little Laura:

You are certainly a tramp - also a regular bloodhound on the trail of this elusive Eliza of "Abdul"! I am writing for that book "Read 'Em and Weep", and I am deeply indebted to you for the information. I will bet in the dark, half my patrimony that his version isn't as good as yours and mine - mine by your kind generosity. But the fact that my trained and very exacting sense as a tracer of folk songs for more than forty years find authentic the version you so faithfully remembered is enough to convince me that "We Are About Right" - just as it is plain to the most casual intelligence that that fool editorial writer in the "Bookman" is a superficial dub. If this sort of thing goes on much longer I shall have to get into the lists myself and publish a few real songs like "Arkansas", and "Jerry go Ile that Gar", and "Abdul" with copious footnotes raising Hell with careless and incompetent recorders hitherto!

I am delighted that Nancy has carried off her Phi Beta Kappa! Bully for her. I am betting on that girl from start to finish. Give her my love and congratulations.

As to the "Lady from New England" who says the Spanish spoiled whatever they touched in this country, what a poor, sad, unventilated soul she must have! Whatever they touched, they added romance and music and language and humanity to. I trust the Spanish Pioneers will give her some pause.

I just had a dear letter from cousin Mamie in Paris; she seems to be flourishing there. Her nephew and his wife were here to see me the other day - but do not resemble her at all.

I am glad that you are all well and happy - I have been long wishing such a state of affairs to fall upon you all like a mantle of peace - you certainly had a long siege of tribulations, now, I trust they are all over and that you will have a long, long time of peace and happiness.

My best to Tilman and Alex, and particularly to Jim, for whom I have a special hunch. And to you dear child a great deal of love as always,

Always Your Friend,